

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /138 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 446

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH

SUBJECT: SOLAR ENERGY POLICY REVIEW

REF: (A) STATE 145840, (B) SINGAPORE 1536

1. SINGAPORE 1536 DISCUSSES POTENTIAL FOR SOLAR ENERGY USE IN SINGAPORE, WHICH IS AT PRESENT LIMITED BUT MAY BE EXPECTED TO GROW AS STANDARD OF LIVING RISES AND DEMAND FOR AIR-CONDITIONING INCREASES. SHOULD ECONOMICALLY COMPETITIVE SOLAR AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS BE DEVELOPED, GOS MIGHT WELL BE PERSUADED TO USE THEM IN ITS LARGE AND SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS. THESE ARE NOT PRIMARILY LOW-RENT "WELFARE" TYPE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, BUT RATHER GOVERNMENT-BUILT HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN WHICH APARTMENTS ARE SOLD TO OCCUPANTS. GOS HOUSING AGENCIES HAVE EXCELLENT RECORD OF IMPROVING QUALITY OF HOUSING WHICH WILL INCREASINGLY BE TARGETTED TOWARD MIDDLE-INCOME CUSTOMERS. WHILE SINGAPORE MARKET CAN NEVER BE VERY LARGE, SINGAPORE'S STATUS AS MODERN REGIONAL CENTER COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR DEMONSTRATION EFFECT ON LARGER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IF SOLAR AIR-CONDITIONING WERE SUCCESSFUL HERE.

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2. POLICY REVIEW GROUP MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ANOTHER ASPECT OF SOLAR ENERGY, THAT OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN. IN SINGAPORE THIS MIGHT MEAN DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE TECHNIQUES FOR MINIMIZING NEED FOR AIR-CONDITIONING IN LARGE HOUSING AND OFFICE BUILDINGS. TECHNIQUES

MIGHT INCLUDE FIXED OR MOVABLE LOUVERS OR OTHER SUN
FOILS, IMPROVED NATURAL OR FORCED VENTILATION, AND
USE OF SUN-REFLECTIVE EXTERNAL WALL AND WINDOW
COATINGS. A GREAT DEAL OF WORK HAS, OF COURSE,
ALREADY BEEN DONE IN THIS AREA; PROBLEM IS TO
COLLATE INFORMATION, MAKE IT READILY AVAILABLE TO
INTERESTED AGENCIES ABROAD, AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES
FOR INEXPENSIVE APPLICATIONS.
INGRAHAM

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